

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 were cancelled; thus, Claims 8-23 are currently pending in the present application.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 8-14 and 16-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kalmanek, Jr. et al.* (US 6,694,429). Applicants respectfully traverse such rejection.

Claim 8 (and similarly Claim 16) recites a step of "sending a reservation request for a virtual connection from said source workstation to a reservation server..." On page 2 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the claimed sending step is disclosed by *Kalmanek* in col. 6, lines 47-62.

Basically, the Examiner characterizes *Kalmanek's* gate controllers 110 and/or 111 as the claimed reservation server, and the Examiner also characterizes *Kalmanek's* setup request message as the claimed reservation request. In col. 6, lines 59-62, *Kalmanek* explains that "upon receiving a setup request message from a calling party, the gate controller can authenticate the identity of the calling party and authorize the service sought by the calling party." However, *Kalmanek's* setup request message does not include a request for a virtual connection, or specifically, *Kalmanek* does not explicitly mention the claimed "reservation request for a virtual connection" as part of the setup request message. Thus, regardless of whether or not *Kalmanek's* setup request message is the same as the claimed reservation request, *Kalmanek* still does not teach or suggest a request for a virtual connection, as claimed.

On page 6 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner asserts that *Kalmanek* "teaches a setup request message for a call that meets a certain quality of service standard. A call is a virtual connection and the setup request is reserving the necessary resource to preserve the quality of service warranted for the call." Thus, the Examiner characterizes the term "call" in *Kalmanek* as the term "virtual connection" in the claimed invention. *Kalmanek* is related to a telecommunication network as used by a telephone company. As such, the term "call" in *Kalmanek*

should be construed as a "telephone call" as contemplated by *Kalmanek*. Many headers that include the term "call," such as Calls Terminating In The PSTN (col. 51, line 29), Calls Originating from The PSTN (col. 52, line 31), which can only be used in the context of a telephone call and not as a virtual connection. Similar examples on the usage of the term "call" include call features such as Call Forwarding, Call waiting, etc., as explained by *Kalmanek*.

Claim 8 continues to recite that "said reservation server includes connection setup means for setting up a virtual connection that meets a predefined Quality of Service (QoS) requirement from said ingress node to said egress node." On page 2 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the claimed connection setup means for setting up of a virtual connection that meets a predefined QoS requirement is disclosed by *Kalmanek* in col. 9, lines 18-34. In col. 9, lines 18-34, *Kalmanek* simply defines the term "quality of service" as "the measure of telecommunication service quality provided during a call. The quality of service can be specified by a calling party, a called party or the service provider." However, *Kalmanek* does not teach or suggest the claimed "connection setup means for setting up a virtual connection" in col. 9, lines 18-34 or elsewhere. Also, *Kalmanek's* gate controllers 110 and/or 111 do not include "connection setup means for setting up a virtual connection that meets a predefined Quality of Service (QoS) requirement from said ingress node to said egress node," as claimed.

In addition, Claim 8 recites a step of "determining whether or not said reservation request can be validated based on user information within said source workstation, wherein said user information is accessible by said reservation server." On page 3 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the claimed determining step is disclosed by *Kalmanek* in col. 9, lines 18-34 again.

As mentioned above, col. 9, lines 18-27 of *Kalmanek* simply defines the term "quality of service" as used by *Kalmanek*, and col. 9, lines 27-34 of *Kalmanek* provides an example related to "the calling party and/or the called party specify a quality of service for the call and service provider can verify the specified quality of service for the call." Thus, col. 9, lines 18-34 of

Kalmanek does not teach or suggest the validation of a reservation request based on user information within the source workstation, as claimed.

On page 6 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner asserts that since *Kalmanek* "teaches providing varying levels of quality of service for a call, therefore the source must have some identifying information to identify the caller in order to provide the proper quality of service." Be that as it may, *Kalmanek* still does not teach or suggest the validation of a reservation request based on user information within the source workstation, as claimed.

Moreover, since the claimed determining step is related to the determination of whether or not a reservation request "can be validated based on user information" within a source workstation, if col. 9, lines 18-34 of *Kalmanek* teaches the claimed determining step, col. 9, lines 18-34 of *Kalmanek* has to mention the claimed reservation request (or *Kalmanek's* setup request message). However, *Kalmanek's* setup request message was not mentioned in col. 9, lines 18-34 at all. Thus, it is clear that col. 9, lines 18-34 of *Kalmanek* does not teach or suggest the claimed determining step.

Because Claim 8 recites novel features that are not taught or suggested by *Kalmanek*, the § 103 rejection is believed to be overcome.

CONCLUSION

Claims 8-23 are currently pending in the present application. For the reasons stated above, Applicants believe that independent Claims 8 and 16 along with their respective dependent claims are in condition for allowance. The remaining prior art cited by the Examiner, but not relied upon, has been reviewed and is not believed to show or suggest the claimed invention.

No fee or extension of time is believed to be necessary; however, in the event that any fee or extension of time is required for the prosecution of this application, please charge it against IBM Deposit Account No. 09-0457.

Respectfully submitted,



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